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SCAM ARTISTS POSING AS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN TELEPHONE CALLS

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem is warning North Dakotans that scam artists are calling telephone subscribers falsely claiming they are with the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and that criminal charges against the potential victims would be removed for the fee of \$500.

“This obviously is a scam with ridiculous claims. However, I’m not willing to chance that any North Dakotan will be confused or unwittingly tricked by these outrageous calls,” Stenehjem said.

According to Stenehjem this is simply another variation of the numerous phone and internet scams whose purpose is to trick unwary consumers into revealing personal information, such as a social security number, or credit card information. North Dakota residents are learning to be suspicious of these types of calls so now the scam artists are pretending to be law enforcement officials in an effort to appear legitimate.

“It is possible for any of us to be so surprised or caught off guard with such disturbing news that we might momentarily, but mistakenly, believe that the caller is trying to help us with a real problem,” said Stenehjem. “Law enforcement is here to protect us and uphold the law, not to solicit money in return for getting rid of criminal charges.”

Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection division, said, “This time, the scam artists are pretending to be BCI agents. Next time they may claim to be from another law enforcement agency, but it is still a scam.”

If consumers have questions about this scam or other scams they should contact the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404 or toll-free at 1-800-472-2600.

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